

THE NEW OREGON TRAIL

An Official Publication of
The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International for Key Women Educators
Oregon State Organization --- Alpha Rho State



Mission: *The Society promotes professional and personal growth of women educators and excellence in education.*

Vision: *Leading women educators, impacting education worldwide.*

Vol. 44, No. 5

January 2016



SPRING CONFERENCE IS COMING!!
PLAN NOW FOR APRIL 29 TO MAY 1 IN PENDLETON

INTERNATIONAL GUEST DR. BEVERLY HELMS



Designed by Vice President Kelly McIntyre using dreamstime.com (the surfer) and shutterstock (the wave). Kelly then added the diamond. Kelly purchased.use of these items.

We are pleased to have Dr. Beverly Helms, Immediate Past International President, joining us at this year's conference. After being initiated in 1972, Dr. Helms has served as committee chair, officer, state president, parliamentarian, and editor at the state level. At the international level, Dr. Helms has been a committee member, regional director, and a member of the administrative board.

Dr. Helms has had a long career in the field of education as a speech pathologist, administrator, adjunct professor, and consultant. Dr. Helms will be our lunchtime keynote speaker on Saturday, with a theme of *Women Leaders*. In addition, you will want to attend her workshop session titled *Membership and Leadership: An Oxymoron?*

Special thanks to Christine Luehring, Lambda/3, and to Kathie Hill, Omega/2, for their sharp eyes and good suggestions as proofreaders and advisors.

CONFERENCE CORNER

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE



*Dr. Cindy Ryan, President
Oregon State Organization*

CATCHING THE WAVE

- How are you “*Catching the Wave*” to strengthen your chapter and move DKG forward?
- What is each one of us doing to recruit, retain, and cultivate our membership?

These are challenging questions that do not have simple answers, but we are in this together. In my travels around Oregon and in talking with chapter presidents through e-mail, I have been impressed with how hard chapters are working to address the needs of our members, as well as recruiting new members.

You can *Catch the Wave of Diversity* at the 2016 State Conference in Pendleton, April 29 - May 1. Our hosts, Iota Chapter, and our State Convention Coordinator and Vice-President Kelly McIntyre have worked steadily to provide high-quality workshops, fun activities, and fabulous keynote speakers for both our membership and local educators.

With a diverse array of workshops, there will be something for everyone. Several workshops, including one on membership, will focus on DKG

CATCH THE WAVE!

Of enthusiasm!
Of new members!
Of energy and excitement!

business. Dr. Beverly Helms, past International President, will be joining us and sharing her wisdom and expertise around both membership and women leaders. We are thrilled that Dr. Helms will be able to travel to Oregon!

Our time at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino promises to be a memorable event. Please take some time to read about all the events that are being planned for you. I hope that you will join us in Pendleton to *Catch the Wave of Diversity*. Your state leadership team and Iota chapter are looking forward to seeing you soon!

Take care, *Cindy*



Source: Pixabay “Wave surfing”

2015 - 17
**ALPHA RHO STATE
EXECUTIVE BOARD**
Contact us!

President Dr. Cindy Ryan

323 Gentle Ave., East
Monmouth, OR 97361-1110
218-393-5873
ryanc@mail.wou.edu

Vice President Kelly McIntyre

174 NE Danbury Ave,
Hillsboro, OR 97124
(808) 927-1856
kellymci@hotmail.com

Secretary Sandy Watts

33815 E. Columbia Ave.
Scappoose, OR 97056-3308
503-543-6269 home
503-369-0075 cell
sandywatts269@comcast.net

Treasurer Madaline Lapp

508 Lapp Ln.
Roseburg, OR 97471-9356
541-679-6359
madaline@wildblue.net

Immediate Past President

Kathy Martell
P.O. Box 5397
Salem, OR 97304-0397
503-508-6482
kkm4dkg@gmail.com

Parliamentarian Pat Howard

4334 NE 72nd Ave.
Portland, OR 97218-3620
503-288-1389
hpjhoward@aol.com

Editor Marie Mueller

527 Edgewater Dr.
Grants Pass, OR 97527-5489
541-479-6726
cwmueller@charter.net

Administrative Secretary

Jill Snyder
2465 Timothy Dr., NW
Salem, OR 97304-1033
503-588-8514
snyderjrn@comcast.net

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

~CATCH THE WAVE OF DIVERSITY~

Friday, April 29, 2016

1:00-6:45 p.m.	Registration open Boutique open Check into our rooms
1:00-5:00	Tours
6:00	Welcome by Pendleton Mayor Phillip Houk
6:15-6:45	Entertainment: Gentry's Singing & Mandolin players
6:45-7:20	Join in group activities
7:30-8:30	General Session and Executive Board Meeting
8:30-10:00	Socializing. Cash Bar open



Saturday, April 30, 2016

7:00-8:00 a.m.	Wellness Activities
7:30-10:00	Registration open
8:00-9:00	Breakfast in Hospitality Suite
8:00-9:00	Boutique open
8:00-9:00	Baskets – Buy your tickets for the drawing at 4:15
9:00-9:15	Welcome
9:15-10:00	Keynote: To be confirmed
10:15-11:00	Workshop Sessions I (choice of 4 sessions)
11:00-11:15	Break
11:15-12:00	Workshop Sessions II (choice of 4 sessions)
12:00-1:30 p.m.	Boutique open
12:00-1:30	Baskets – Buy your tickets for the drawing at 4:15
12:15-1:15	Lunch and Birthday celebration
1:15-2:00	Keynote (Dr. Beverly Helms: Women Leaders)
2:15-3:00	Workshop Sessions III (choice of 4 sessions)
3:00-3:15	Break
3:15-4:00	Workshop Sessions IV (choice of 4 sessions)
4:15-4:45	Basket Drawing
5:00-7:00	Cash Bar open in Conference area
5:15-6:30	Dinner and Awards
7:30-9:30	Pendleton Underground Tour (Sign up & pay with conference registration)
7:30-10:00	Hospitality Suite open

Sunday, May 1, 2016

6:30-7:30 a.m.	Wellness Activities
8:00-8:30	White Rose Ceremony
8:30-9:30	Breakfast
9:30-12:00	Chapter Presidents' Training; others are welcome as well!

WORKSHOPS

Workshop choices and presenters are still being finalized. They will be published in the March Trail.

No matter if you are a retired educator or are currently working, Saturday offers workshops for you. Sessions include:

- Diversity in the classroom
- Using Pendleton wool to make beautiful creations
- Native plants of Oregon
- How to age gracefully
- Recruiting younger members into DKG
- *Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral* book club discussion
- **Membership and Leadership:** An Oxymoron?

TOURS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities are provided both at Wildhorse Resort and Casino and by Alpha Rho State. Choose your favorite among many fun and interesting things planned for you!

At Wildhorse Resort and Casino:

- Cineplex with 5-screens
- 18-hole golf course
- Indoor swimming pool
- Exercise room
- Children's Entertainment Center
- Casino

Alpha Rho Activities:

- "Getting to Know You" Scavenger Hunt (Friday & Saturday)
- Wellness Activities (Saturday morning)
 - Water Aerobics
 - Walking

Tours

Friday afternoon: Pendleton Woolen Mills—Pendleton's Pacific Northwest woolen mills are a testament to the quest for quality established by their founders six generations ago in 1863. The intricate jacquard blankets and array of wool fabrics produced have earned a reputation on par with the greatest mills around the world. Come by and see for yourself how it is done!

Friday afternoon: Tamástslikt Cultural Institute—Immerse yourself in the history, culture and hospitality of the people who have lived on this land for more than 10,000 years. Come to Tamástslikt Cultural Institute and experience the storied past, rich present, and bright future of our tribes through interactive exhibits, special events and a Living Culture Village.

Saturday night: The Pendleton Underground Tours—The great success and popularity of the Pendleton Underground Tour is the wonderful well-trained and educated historians who guide tourists back in time to learn history that isn't taught in school, but was very much a part of the early West and the lives of our ancestors. Nothing is artificial or fabricated. Experience the Real Old West at the Pendleton Underground Tours. You'll learn history that no one wanted to talk about. Sign up on your conference registration form and join us on Saturday evening for this fun tour!

LODGING

Wildhorse Resort Reservations Are Now Open!!

Online and phone reservations are accepted. Make sure you identify yourself as being with the Delta Kappa Gamma conference to get our group rate.

- Register online at: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/152414ce19d84594>
 - Group ID: 8034
 - Password: 10480000965
- Toll free phone reservations: 1-800-654-9453

Group room rates range from \$86.25 to \$104.50 (before tax). **Conference rates are available until 3:00 p.m. Thursday, April 7, 2016.**

If interested, you can also ask about staying at **the Wildhorse Resort RV park.**

CONFERENCE BASICS

Catch the Wave of Diversity in Pendleton!

Join us in Pendleton to *Catch the Wave of Diversity*. No matter what your interests are, there will be something for you in Pendleton this year. At the 2016 State Conference, **Oregon celebrates Alpha Rho's 75th "Diamond" Birthday.** Listen and learn at workshops and from keynote speakers. Plan to have lots of fun! Sign up for PDU's.

The fun begins **Friday** afternoon with conference registration, the first clues for the "Getting to Know You" scavenger hunt, tours of the Pendleton Woolen Mill and the Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, and checking into rooms at Wildhorse Resort and Casino. Be sure to join us Friday evening for musical entertainment, our General Session and Business Meeting, and community-building games.

Start your **Saturday** morning with a wellness activity--a relaxing and fun way to begin our busy day! The morning keynote will jumpstart our day with the topic of diversity in the schools. A delicious Diamond Birthday western BBQ luncheon will take place on Saturday between workshop sessions. Dr. Beverly Helms, our International Representative, will treat us to a lunchtime talk that will focus on *Women Leaders*.

During your spare time on Saturday, make sure you participate in the Getting to Know You scavenger hunt, and check out the Basket Drawing and the Boutique. The Basket Drawing will take place after the final workshops, followed by a cash bar, and a relaxing dinner and awards presentation. Top off your Saturday by taking part in the Pendleton Underground tour, and then join us in the Hospitality Suite for fun and fellowship.

Please stay for **Sunday** events! The morning will begin with the White Rose Ceremony, followed by breakfast and the Presidents' Training. If you aren't taking part in the Presidents' Training, take time to go swimming, explore Wildhorse Resort & Casino, tour the Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, or just relax. Everyone will find something to do, so please plan to join us in Pendleton!

What to Wear?

Much like our first conference in Bend, one of our themes in Pendleton is "relaxation." Because this is a conference format, we will not be having a formal banquet, so no formal clothes are required. Bring both "work casual" and casual clothes. Tuck your swim suit, exercise attire, and sneakers into your suitcase so you can join us in wellness activities on Saturday morning.

PLACES TO FIND IMAGES YOU CAN USE, Part 2
from DKG International Communication and Publicity Committee.

<https://www.dkg.org/content/what-every-discerning-dkg-editor-and-webmaster-needs-know>

Are you designing a document for class? for a chapter newsletter? for your family? The guidelines in the link above do not guarantee immunity from lawsuits, but they will help you make choices. The websites below offer images that are usually safe for use, but read the info on each image before deciding. Safest of all? Take your own photos and use them!

- Image *After** – a large online free photo collection. You can download and use any image or texture from this site and use it in your own work, either personal or commercial.
- MorgueFile** – contains free, high-resolution digital stock photographs and reference images for either corporate or public use. The purpose of this site is to provide free image reference material for illustrators, comic book artists, designers, teachers, and all creative pursuits.
- Pixabay** – is a repository for stunning public domain pictures. You can freely use any image from this website in digital and printed format, for personal and commercial use, without attribution requirement to the original author. There are currently 157,752 images available: 113,769 photos and 43,983 pieces of clip art.
- Photos for Class** – This site was created for students to use but might be useful. It not only returns Creative Commons photos but also generates automatic citations for those pictures.
- Veezzle** – is a search engine that will find free stock photos.
- Wikimedia Commons** – a database of 20,145,366 freely usable media files.

A misperception exists that any image found on Google is copyright-free. **NOT** true. To narrow your search to only images that are permissible to use in your newsletter or website, use the search tools in Google. The following video will explain the process: *Quicker Google Images Search by Usage Rights License* at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3U26P6WnNTw>

Notes after e-mail discussions with International Office representatives

1. Use of official LOGOs (those with the “TM” trademark--also called “icons”) is highly restricted. (See Part 1 of “Places to Find Images You Can Use” in the fall *Trail* and the website at the top of this page.) However
2. Not every visual is an official logo or icon. Designs developed for specific committees are considered to be “graphics.” While graphics from International committees are not posted on the international website, state committee chairs have copies. Another source is the flash drives provided at training sessions for state committees. Most members of international committees can also provide a copy of that committee’s graphic. Chapters may obtain a copy from the state chair who is supposed to contact every chapter and provide information. If you are an Educational Excellence chapter chair, for example, the graphic for that committee (below, right) is one you can include in your work--if you have received a copy from your state EE chair.
3. Graphics on the DKG graphics CD that most chapters have can be used by state and chapter committees in written and online presentations.

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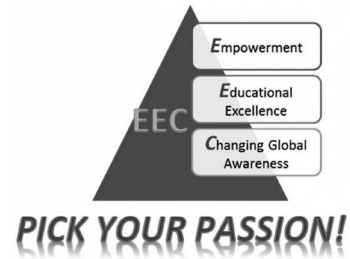
This **LOGO** is a copyrighted and “Trade Marked” design from International with restricted uses. (See the TM in the circle)

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This graphic is from the DKG Graphics CD.

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This graphic was obtained from the International Educational Excellence chair.

U.S. FORUM NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

Come, get involved, and help DKG be “the voice of education!” For more information and registration forms, visit the US Forum website at www.usforumdkg.org or contact Darlene at kfteach@aol.com There’s time to register for the National Legislative Seminar March 13-16 at the Holiday Inn in Arlington, VA! Topics are human trafficking, bullying/cyberbullying, mental health/gun violence, pay equity for women, and an update on re-authorization of ESEA and high-stakes student testing

SEMINAR DEADLINES

- The **registration deadline** for the National Legislative Seminar (NLS) of the U. S. Forum being held March 13-16, 2016, is **February 13, 2016**. Cut-off for reservations at the special rate of \$160: postmarked by February 12, 2016. After that, registration is \$185.
- The optional tour is \$45. The registration form is at <http://www.usforumdkg.org/legislative-seminar.html> The cost of lunch on Monday is included in the registration fee; however, the cost of Sunday night dinner and Wednesday breakfast is not included in that fee.
- **Deadline** for specially arranged **room rates is February 12, 2016**. Rooms at the Holiday Inn are \$189 per night for up to quadruple occupancy.

All DKG members who reside in the United States are automatically members of the U.S. Forum and are eligible to attend the seminar. Additional information about NLS can be found at the forum web site, which is <http://www.usforumdkg.org/legislative-seminar.html>

NLS OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

A performance of “Capitol Steps” is available to those arriving on Saturday, March 12, 2016, prior to the beginning of the National Legislative Seminar. This live performance at the Ronald Reagan Building in D.C. begins at 7:30 p.m. (EST). Transportation is “on your own” (taxi cab, etc.). “Capitol Steps” is a musical presentation of skits of political satire/humor. By attending as a group of 10 or more, the individual ticket price decreases from \$40.50 to \$33.00. For more information, contact Wally Turner at 64sedona@gmail.com

You may also be interested in seeing “110 in the Shade” at the historic Ford’s Theatre on Tuesday evening, March 15, 2016. Order tickets by calling 866-820-4553. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. (EST). Cost of tickets for center balcony seats is \$30.00. Transportation is “on your own.”

On Sunday evening, Kate Campbell Stevenson will present a musical theater performance “Women Working to Form a More Perfect Union.”

Darlene Cook and information from the US Forum Newsletter.

NEW!!

DKG WEBSITE

January 2016!

- Same address: www.dkg.org
- New look! Easier navigation!
- Check it out today.

The International Communications and Publicity Committee invites every member to be a part of the DKG social network. To facilitate this, members need to sign in on the DKG website at dkg.org using their member ID number as the user name.

The committee encourages every chapter to help members complete this simple process at a chapter meeting through an initiative called the Profile Premiere Challenge. State organizations can also promote creation of member profiles at their meetings.

Here are the steps:

- Bring a device (laptop, smart-phone) to access the Internet.
- Each member needs her membership number (found on membership card). To ensure all numbers are readily available, ask the treasurer to bring her list with the membership numbers.
- Go to <http://www.dkg.org> and to the “Sign-in” button at the top of the page (on the new website). User name is the membership number, and the initial password has been given to chapter and state organization presidents.
- Create a Member Profile.

Once done, members can do all sorts of neat things. Complete your profile today! Open the door to more social and educational opportunities on an international scale.

(Slightly adapted from January/February 2016 Get Connected!)

THANK YOU, ALPHA RHO STATE!

My name is Chris Auer and I applied for four out of five different scholarships through Alpha Rho (Oregon) State. Thanks to Tawnya Campbell, my friend and president of our Omega Chapter in Grants Pass, and to State Scholarship/Financial Awards Committee Chair Martha Nicoloff, I was given information about this and received **\$2,000!**

I am currently a graduate student with the University of Grand Canyon in a Master of Education in Special Education program, and I work as an education assistant for life-skills at Three Rivers School District in Josephine County, Oregon. I am a single mom with two awesome middle schoolers, so you can imagine how much this scholarship helps. This year will be a financial struggle and this scholarship has been a huge blessing to me. This is also my very first scholarship ever! I have decided to use these funds for a Macbook, which is the best use because my computer is my life-line for this degree and my upcoming student teaching. I have issues with my former computer because it is old and that makes on-line schoolwork difficult.



My goals are to finish the classes in June, begin student teaching September, and gain my degree in December 2016. I look forward to being a teacher, as I love kids, especially those that have struggles. They make my heart smile and I can't wait to make their hearts do the same by reducing barriers they have with their exceptionalities. I've not felt the same joy in any other field as I do when I see growth and smiles from kids. This is the primary reason I want to become a teacher and an exceptional one at that.

I've been a member of Delta Kappa Gamma since 2007, and the support, care, and friendships I've built--and continue to build--are very special to me. I'm so glad to be a part of this sisterhood. THANK YOU so much, Delta Kappa Gamma, for this gift; it will be used well!

.....

TO ALL CHAPTER MEMBERS

Now is the time to consider upping your leadership skills and putting them to use in your chapter. Which chapter office would you like to have? You'll be able to apply your innate leadership abilities, can attend training by state (and sometimes by International) officers, and will have opportunities to serve your local schools, your community, and your chapter. Besides--it's fun!

Interested? Contact your chapter's Nominations Committee today!

REMINDER TO CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Activate your chapter's Nominations Committee today! It's time to identify which talented and energetic chapter members will form the next chapter leadership team.

STATE FINANCIAL AWARDS (SFA)

GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR NON-MEMBERS

Grants are awarded to non-members for undergraduate work.

1. The Dagmar Jeppeson Grant is for Elementary Education.
2. The Edith Green Grant is for Secondary Education.

Both grants are available to juniors and seniors working toward initial certification.

These grants are chapter-sponsored. The chapter should obtain the application and three reference forms from the Alpha Rho website. The **applicant** returns the completed application **to the sponsoring chapter by February 1.**

A chapter member must write a nomination letter to the State Financial Awards Chair, Martha Nicoloff. **The chapter** sends the nomination letter along with the completed application **by March 1.** The three reference forms are sent directly to the SFA Chair by **March 1.**

STATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Your State Scholarship committee was pleased to present a 2015 State Founders' and State Presidents' Award for \$2000 to Chris Auer from Omega Chapter. (See her article on page 9.) SFA helps members with funding for their programs as well.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF THE FIVE STATE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

An Oregon state member may receive a total of **three** state scholarships in her lifetime: (1) Hazel Fishwood, (2) Emma Henkle, (3) State Founders' & Presidents', (4) Isabelle Huston Commemorative, and (5) Personal Enrichment Commemorative:

A. Scholarship Awards

1. The Hazel Fishwood Award is available for the pursuit of a post-doctoral degree, doctoral degree, master's degree, a post-doctoral study, a doctoral study, a master's study, or a general graduate study.
2. The Emma Henkle Award is for graduate study, preferably in the field of language arts and possibly in multiple languages.
3. State Founders' and Presidents' Awards are for candidates pursuing graduate studies.
4. The Isabelle Huston Commemorative Award is for graduate study, special certification, and studies or projects advancing educational excellence.

B. Personal Enrichment Commemorative Awards

5. Have you finished all your degree work? If you would like some assistance to aid in personal growth, consider the Personal Enrichment Commemorative Awards. These are for short-term programs such as Roads Scholars or similar study groups, workshops, seminars, conferences, and non-credit courses. Application forms are available on the State website: <http://www.deltakappagamma.org/OR/forms.html>

Due dates to Martha Nicoloff, State Scholarship Chair: March 1, 2016; August 1, 2016; and December 1, 2016

Martha Nicoloff, SFA Chair
242 Muirfield Ave., S.E.
Salem, OR 97306
nicoloff2@comcast.net
503-364-3045 (home)
503-709-2069 (cell)

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS AND NEWSLETTER EDITORS

The following is a refresher for chapter newsletters. The newsletters that have been sent to me have been terrific. I appreciate all your hard work, and I'm sure you members appreciate it too.

Brenda Jensen, Communication Chair

STRUCTURE

- A "banner" on page 1 identifying the chapter by name & location.
- Volume, issue number, date.
- Clearly specify the chapter as a division of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and of Alpha Rho, the Oregon State Organization.
- Include the chapter's "responsible person" (You, as the editor) and full contact info for mailing, phone, e-mail.
- Note if posted on a website and include the link.
- DKG Mission, Vision, Values
- Key Women Educators statement

CONTENT

- Info on next chapter meeting(s)--date, time, place, things to bring, cost of lunch, etc., contributions to donate for XXX.
- Minutes summary of last meeting--same for treasurer's report, if useful to the readers.
- Photographs of chapter activities, clearly labeled and used only with member and non-member permissions in place. The Media Permission form is on the Oregon website.

- What has the chapter done for Educational Excellence projects?
- What has the chapter done for fun?
- Celebrations of member accomplishments
- Recognition of non-members in your community for, as an example, support to education
- Celebrations of member awards--advanced degrees or certificates, NBC or renewal thereof, promotions, publications (is the member featured in the new DKG Collegial Exchange, for example?), art (especially if selected for the DKG Gallery!)
- In what activities can members participate in the next few months?

FORMAT

- Generally 11-point in Times New Roman, Garamond, Courier, etc.
- Minimize italics and capitals
- For printed copies, consider columns.
- For digital copies, consider what will be viewed on a screen. Perhaps full-page, margin-to-margin articles would read more easily. Alternatively, use short columns with an article going horizontal, rather than down the page. Separate content with lines.
- Paginate
- Each page should also include the title (with chapter name, such as Beta Beta Banter) and the date. (Use a header/footer pattern.)
- Using DKG logos, graphics, icons or those from another source? Be sure to follow the guidelines on the International Communications and Publicity page at www.dkg.org.

STATE BOOK CLUB CORNER

Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral

As our State Conference in Pendleton approaches, Kelly and I hope that those of you who joined the State Book Club have had a chance to read *Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral* by Kris Radish. One of the reasons we love this book is that it makes us think and urges us to push ourselves in ways with which we may not be comfortable. An example is on p. 154 when Marie (one of the characters in the book) is asked a pivotal question.

'How do you want to *live*?'

Marie cannot remember anyone ever having asked her this particular question. She cannot remember when she stopped long enough, beyond her moments of silence in her bedroom, to consider such a notion. She worries and talks about how everyone else lives... But her? She feels a hard ball forming in the pit of her stomach.

This question gives us pause and pushes us to think about how we want to live. We can't wait to share this particular quote with DKG sisters in Pendleton. *Annie Freeman's Fabulous Traveling Funeral* is coming to Wildhorse Resort & Casino, and we can't wait to hear your thoughts!

Cindy Ryan and Kelly McIntyre

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKING. WILL YOU ANSWER?

WONDERFUL WOMEN OF ALPHA RHO!

Bet you know of some wonderful women in your DKG chapter, right? How can you celebrate and share their accomplishments? Write a letter of nomination telling of your outstanding chapter member in light of her work for education, her service in the community, or her contributions to Delta Kappa Gamma. Have your letter co-signed by your chapter President or Vice President and send it to our State President or the Awards Co-chairs (below). Yes, you can do so electronically.

Tell us about your chapter's wonderful women by March 15, 2016. Recipients of Service to Education, Service to Community, and Service to Alpha Rho will be announced at the state conference in Pendleton in April.

AWARDS CO-CHAIRS

Priscilla Ing, Lambda/3

2345 Warren St.
Eugene, OR 97405
541-342-6984

priscilla.a.ing@gmail.com

Kathy Webster, Gamma/3

1585 Balboa St.
Eugene, OR 97408
541-510-3131

kwebbie@comcast.net

DOES YOUR CHAPTER MEASURE UP?

The following actions are reviewed by the receiving committees and persons and are then reported to the Awards Committee. Will your chapter be one we can recognize on April 30, 2016?

1. Did you send in your chapter program booklet/yearbook **AND** chapter brochure to both Oregon President Dr. Cindy Ryan and your District Coordinator by December 1?
2. Is someone completing state reports to be sent to President Cindy by February 1?
3. Will copies of four chapter newsletters have been sent to the Communications/ Technology Committee (Brenda Jensen, Chair), President Cindy, and your District Coordinator by March 4?

If so, your chapter may be recognized in Pendleton for the **Rosette Award!**

4. Will you have initiated new members or reinstated former members by March 31, 2016?

Depending upon the size of your chapter and the number of new or reinstated members, your chapter may also earn the **Order of the Rose**. [For details, consult the bright red *Bylaws & Standing Rules* booklet, pp. 9 – 10 of the *Standing Rules*, distributed at Fall Leadership Conference in October.]



The BEAR (Building Early Academic Readiness) Program Kicking Off at Evergreen in Cave Junction!

In partnership with Omega Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and Evergreen Elementary, The Delta Kappa Gamma Educational Foundation and the Oregon State DKG Organization brought the BEAR Program to Evergreen Elementary in Cave Junction! The BEAR Program is designed to promote family literacy through book donations and literacy support to students and their families who have just welcomed a newborn brother or sister into the family or those that have a sibling less than 18 months of age. When a new child is born in the family, the student sibling(s) is/are acknowledged in an all-school assembly. The sibling(s) take a pledge of literacy with the principal and/or the BEAR Program leaders and receive a special backpack to take home. The backpack includes books, a letter from the principal to the new family about the importance of reading aloud, tips and guidance on how to promote family reading time, a reading log, and a stuffed bear for the baby.

*B.E.A.R. students will fly as high as
the Evergreen Eagle does.
(Logo used with permission.)*



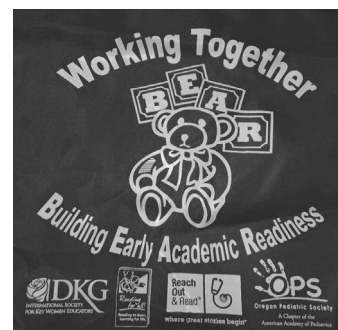
On December 4, 2015, Evergreen Elementary kicked off its BEAR Program. Program leaders (1) Mrs. Tawnya Campbell, Title 1 Coordinator and Omega Chapter President, (2) Mrs. Carrie Gragg, 3rd grade teacher and Omega Chapter Member, and (3) Mrs. Ellen Ellis, Omega Chapter Literacy Committee and retired Three Rivers School District teacher, joined to honor 19 families that include 25 students. Evergreen is off to a great start as these students and families promote literacy activities in their homes!

To learn more about this program or to donate books, please contact Mrs. Campbell at 541-592-6477 or Mrs. Gragg at 541-592-3136.

Continuing in Klamath Falls!



Judy Brimmer, chair of the Alpha BEAR Project, worked hard to organize this year's participants in reading to their younger brothers and sisters. For 2015, Alpha has 33 participants at Mills Elementary. On January 7, 2016, the pledge ceremony was held in front of the whole school. Principal Fred Bartels led the pledge while bags and books were handed out to the participants. We are excited about this year's project!



*Klamath Fall BEAR students,
Alpha members, and Principal
Bartels (back, left).*

Students' photos used with
parental permission.

**Working
Together**

**Building
Early
Academic
Readiness**



DKGnext! 2015

Check out the article below for something new and exciting.

From left to right: *Sara Sweeny, West Virginia; Jessica Seargent, Colorado; Meredith Fychok, North Carolina; Karen Shelton, Oregon; Amber Hedgpeth, South Carolina; Michelle Ford-Pittman, Texas; Emily Lozinak, Connecticut; International President Dr. Lyn B.Schmid*

DKG AND ME: MY PATH TO DKGnext!

As the youngest member of my DKG chapter, I often thought I had very little to contribute to the organization. I had minimal wisdom to impart to my chapter and even less money to donate for causes. I could simply offer my dues, a bit of time, and friendship. I did not think that would be enough.

After all, I had joined the group only because I had received a scholarship when I was in college, and I felt an obligation to “give back” to the organization that had supported me. My plan was three years tops in this organization— just enough to feel better about taking a scholarship awarded ten years ago. However, DKG had bigger plans for me than I could have ever imagined. Little did I know that I would grow to love this group of women and truly feel that I am part of something important. I had no idea where Delta Kappa Gamma was going take me.

Last spring my chapter president encouraged me to take an online webinar with President Lyn Schmid that focused on the voices of DKG members under the age of 35. I thought, “Under?! Wait—we have a voice?! Someone wants to hear from us?” I was shocked; after all, my belief was that I had nothing to give and that I had not earned a voice yet. I was wrong. Our international president showed me that my opinion does matter. I was invited to be open and honest. I was invited to share my positive experiences as well as to offer constructive criticism. I was asked to speak. I was heard. I became a vested member of DKG.

After participating in the webinar, I was honored to receive an e-mail from President Schmid inviting me, along with six other young women, to Austin to form a focus group to help drive DKG into the future. From this, “**DKGnext!**” was born. This new group focuses on moving DKG forward while retaining traditions that made our Society great. The group focuses on attracting, retaining, and supporting new members. The ultimate goal? Merge the rich past with excitement for the future to create a Society truly full of key women educators. You can catch a glimpse of our work in a presentation at

DKGnext, continued

state conference, and be sure to look for **DKGnext!** seminars at International Convention in Nashville this summer. We are working to help share new and innovative ideas with you for the future of DKG.

As I reflect on my experiences with **DKGnext!**, I am honored to be one of the first members to move this group forward. I have love for this group of women who have helped me learn and grow both personally and professionally.

I have faith that I will be heard by my fellow sisters in DKG. I have hope that **DKGnext!** will help this organization to grow and become more than Annie Webb Blanton dreamed. I am proud to be a member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.

**Karen Shelton, Iota Chapter/
DKGnext! 2015 panel member**

IOTA WORK PARTY
See Chapter Chatter article, p. 16.



Nikki Murtaugh, Vickie Jackson, Karen Shelton, Betty Krause, and Allison Van Ocker, in Jacque Fox's home. Photo by Jacque Fox

My DKG Sisters,

After spending 15 days in November either in the hospital or in a rehab facility to treat my pneumonia, MRSA, and E.coli, I am slowly regaining my strength. I feel very good, but can't move very far very fast. Time and consistent effort will hopefully improve that.

I am very grateful to my DKG sisters for all the prayers, cards, e-mails, and other acts of concern while I was in the hospital and since coming home. It was a scary situation, but I have learned that I can ask for help and know that I don't have to deal with crises alone. With the support of family, friends, and my community, I am confident I will soon be back to my old self. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at our State Conference in April. Thank you!

Chris Luehring, Lambda/3

OMEGA INITIATION
December 7, 2015
See Chapter Chatter article, p.16.



L to R: Kim Roberts, Chris Auer, Tawnya Campbell, Initiate Kelly Turner, Initiate Carrie Gragg, and Pam Boston

CHAPTER CHATTER

District 1

Iota (Umatilla & Morrow Cos.): has been busy promoting reading for pre-school aged children in our area. In addition to donating tuition scholarships to local preschoolers, DKG is committed to putting books in their hands. The local women educators recently hand-made book bags for Umatilla and Morrow County children. Each bag contains a book, bookmark, and a note for parents. (Photos below and p. 15.)



*Karen Shelton--Iota/1
Photo by Jacque Fox*

District 2

Alpha (Klamath Co.): enjoyed a "Christmas Energizer" and auction hosted by Linda McBride. We enjoyed a wonderful brunch and fellowship. In lieu of a gift exchange, we brought canned items for the food bank. In addition, we brought books for our BEAR Project participants. Members who attended all sported smiles. (See photo, right)

Omega (Josephine Co.): Our November PDU presentation on "Gettin' Googley" (tips on using Google-based programs, Chromebooks, and the Cloud) was a hit for all who at-

tended. Presenters were member **Lise Van Brunt** and Nicholas Kemper, one of our 2015 New-teacher Grant winners. December was initiation for two new members. (See photo, p. 15)

District 4

Tau (Clatsop & Columbia Cos.): awarded \$50 individual grants to eight teachers at Clatskanie Elementary on November 23 to enhance learning opportunities in their classrooms.

Alpha Omicron (St. Helens): awarded grants to ten local elementary educators. Four recipients accepted their grants at our October meeting. The \$50 grants were used to purchase a variety of items from classroom gardening supplies and extended reading materials to science safety goggles.

District 5

Alpha Epsilon (Salem & Polk Co.): has been a busy and productive chapter. In October, we learned about Education in Africa from our own Sharon Anderson who spent part of her summer in Kenya. November increased our knowledge about healthful eating during a presentation at Natural Grocers. In December we were pleased to initiate Lesli Ficker. She is teaching middle school Math this year and comes to us with great enthusiasm for education. We have



been invited to tour the facilities of Salem-Keizer's new Career Technical Educational Center in January. We are excited to see this addition to high school programs!

Beta Beta (Tigard/Tualatin/Sherwood): enjoyed a successful November Auction. We earned \$4,500 for The Beta Beta Education Foundation; many items were donated to our Community Partners. In December, BB had its annual holiday party with homemade lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and desserts. We played Canned Food Bingo and donated several pounds of food to Bethlehem House of Bread food pantry in Tigard. We ended with the traditional singing of carols.

District 6

Pi (Hood River & Sherman/Wasco/Wheeler Cos.): had a busy fall. In September, a delicious salad dinner helped us celebrate back to school and summer fun. Each month includes a door prize. It is fun and adds to our scholarship fund. October brought a "Noonday Collection" for purchase of items from around the world, handmade, mostly by women. November was card making provided by two members. Our December brunch and silent auction was another successful event for the scholarship fund. Pi Chapter is holding steady with membership numbers!

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Marie Mueller, Editor
527 S.W. Edgewater Dr.
Grants Pass, OR 97527-5489
cwmueller@charter.net
541-479-6726

Send all address changes to:

DKG International Headquarters
P.O. Box 1589
Austin, TX 78767-1589
E-mail to lindad@dkg.org
(Or fill out the online form)

AND

Send a copy to Jill Snyder
snyderjm@comcast.net

Deadline for next Trail

March 1, 2016

**The March Trail includes complete
conference info!**

President Cindy's 2016 Schedule		
Date	Chapter/Activity	Location
12/21 - 22, 2015	Conference Planning	Pendleton, OR
<i>Several chapter visits are pending confirmation.</i>		
4/29 - 5/1	2016 Spring Conference Wild Horse Resort & Casino	Pendleton, OR
7/5 - 7/9	International Convention Gaylord Opryland Resort	Nashville, TN